1978-1980 LAMBERTON GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

The Lamberton Girls Cross Country team of 1978-1980 are honored to be recognized for their athletic achievements and inducted into the Red Rock Central Hall of Fame.

Girls' cross country was a new sport with the first state meet beginning in 1975.

The team of 1978 consisted of 6 runners: Kristin Asp, Mary Jenniges, Julie Cazett, Wendy Jenniges, Julie Moldan and Dawn Altermatt.

Gene Asp, coach, thanks Fred Gislason, superintendent, for taking the chance to hire him to coach the cross-country teams. With his leadership more competitive meets throughout Minnesota were scheduled, he prepared the girls to run on all types of terrain; up and down hills, rough trails, and well-groomed golf courses, bringing out each girl's strengths. One highly competitive meet with the state's top teams participating was the Swain Invitational. This trip to Duluth became a highlight of the season.

1978 was the first year for A and AA girls' cross country for the state of Minnesota. We were a young team, working hard and doing our best at meets. The Section 3 meet was held in Ortonville. Our primary competition was Redwood Falls. We all ran hard and were in a good position to win the meet, thanks to Wendy Jenniges finishing strong and working her way ahead of runners from Redwood Falls in the finish shoot, Lamberton secured the win to advance to the State Meet.

The State meet was held at the University of Minnesota Golf Course in St Paul. 95 girls, including 10 teams, lined the starting line taking off running the hilly 3200-meter course. Everyone ran a great race and surprised us by finishing 2nd as a team putting Lamberton on the map for Cross Country.

In 1979 we added to our team: Alisa Moldan, Marnie Wenisch and Diane Hoehne. Another state meet appearance – finishing 7th out of 13 teams.

In 1980 the team was ready to work hard and set high goals. Mary Jenniges and Kristin Asp were seniors leading the team in advancing to the state meet. 120 girls, including 15 teams, were competing. Making our 3rd appearance at state we knew the course and were better prepared for the stress of competition. Coach Asp recalls telling the team "If anyone beats you tomorrow it is because they are a better team". Everyone ran their best and peaked at the right time. Lamberton finished in 3rd place, missing 2nd place by 2 points. Lamberton sent a bus full of spectators to cheer on the team. This year Gene Asp was honored by being named Coach of the Year by the coaches' association.

Thanks to these young women who worked hard, developed their athletic abilities and accomplished these achievements.